

THE  
RĀMĀYAN OF VĀLMĪKĪ

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE

BY

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With a memoir by M. N. Vankataswami, M. R. A. S.

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# A Memoir of Ralph T. H. Griffith, M.A., C.I.E.

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**Ralph Thomas Hotchkin Griffith**, the translator of the immortal work of Valmiki, first saw the light at Corsley in Wiltshire on the 25th May, 1826. His father was the Rev. Robert Clavey Griffith, rector of Corsley (1815-1824) and of Ffield Bavan, also in Wiltshire (1825-1844) and his mother was Mary Elizabeth Adderly, daughter of Ralph Hotchkin of Uppingham Hall. Griffith was first educated at Westminster School and then at Uppingham from whence he proceeded with an exhibition to Queen's College, Oxford, where he graduated B. A., in 1846 and M. A., in 1849. While at Oxford he was the pupil of the Orientalist Horace Hayman Wilson, and here gaining the Bodan scholarship, he continued the study of Sanskrit to the end of his long life. Before leaving for India in 1853, where he was appointed in the Educational Department and given the post of Professor of English Literature in the Sanskrit College at Benares, he held the appointment in his native country as an Assistant Master at Marlborough College, for four years, after which his services were confined to India; which country he evidently adopted for he saw his father-land no more, his bones being laid at Kotaghuri, one of the picturesque sanatoria in India, having an altitude of 7000 feet.

The Sanskrit College at Benares is an old institution as old, as the Calcutta Sanskrit College (its age being 100 years) and in unison with the sacredness of the place and its people composed largely of Pandits, arguing on metaphysical questions it began, like its sister institution as a Sanskrit Institution and it was only in later times—and that too 70 years ago—an English Department was added to it under its principal Dr. James Robert Ballantyne, the versatile scholar. The Benares College rose to eminence and it was one of the colleges that held its own in the pre-university days and in the days when the Department of Public Instruction was not created, its only rival for the imparting of higher education in Upper India was the Agra College. Here for 6 years Griffith carried on his professorial duties with success, his forte lay in teaching English poetry and he had the honour, besides, of being the colleague of that eminent Scottish pedagogue already named. Him he succeeded, on his retirement in 1861, as the principal of the College, which position he held with conspicuous ability for 17 years, Government itself holding him in high esteem finding him a successful administrator and teacher and acceding to his request in naming the College as Queen's College, after his own college at Oxford and, of course, after our Queen-Empress Victoria, the Good. In 1876 he became the Director of Public Instruction, retiring in 1885, Government granting him a special pension and conferring on him the title of C. I. E. While Principal, his ambition was that his students should show superior culture and scholarship coupled with character, and his ambition was more than realized for his students held high positions in the state with great credit to themselves and to the college which produced them, and while attached to the college, apart from his life's work, which will be noticed later, he gave a direct impetus to the study of Sanskrit by founding in 1866 "The Pandit," a monthly journal of the college devoted to Sanskrit studies, editing it himself for 8 years and giving to the world no less than 40 vols.



and the large and finest of garlands abounding in flowers of all kinds  
 in every age of his life of which he was an enthusiastic lover as much as of their relation  
 Poetry and well he might have exclaimed in all sincerity and truth "Creative is he the soul,  
 the world he loves, and is mine"

Though he lies in a different clime and more than 8000 miles away from his home, Griffith  
 lives in both the continents. His name will remain so long as the sun and the moon endure and  
 the English language exists. It is as imperishable as that of Valmiki, the bard of India  
 whose master-piece he rendered into superb verse. imperishable as that of the Shakespeare  
 of India whose work, the *Kumara Sambhava*, he translated, imperishable as that of the  
 authors of the old Vedas whose work he Englished. His name will be cherished by the English  
 knowing Hindu in his home, the Englishman in his mother country and the Colonies beyond the  
 seas, to the end of time. We may fittingly conclude this memoir by quoting the criticism on  
 his poetry by Professor A. A. Macdonnell Ph. D.

"In the translation (of Sanskrit works presented to the world) Griffith abandoned rhyme  
 and rendered each verse by one syllabically harmonising with the original and generally  
 divided into corresponding hemistiches. Griffith's command of poetical diction enabled him  
 to reproduce the form and spirit of the ancient hymns better than by means of prose or of  
 rhyming verse. His method of interpretation is eclectic; it follows partly the medieval commen-  
 tators, partly the researches of western scholars supplemented by investigations of his own.  
 His renderings cannot be considered authoritative but they are the only versions that present  
 the general spirit of the ancient hymns to the English reader in an attractive garb. Thus  
 Griffith was not only the most voluminous but also the best translator of ancient Indian  
 poetry that Great Britain has yet produced"

THE HERMITAGE,  
 HYDERABAD DECCAN,  
 DASERA DAY,  
 28th September, 1914. }

M N VENKATASWAMI, M R. A. S.

## NOTE.

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a is pronounced like u in fun.

á like a in father.

e like a in fate.

i like i in fill.

í like ee in feel.

u like u in full.

ú is pronounced like u in flute.

ai like i in fire.

au like ou in foul.

y is a consonant only.

ś is pronounced nearly as sh.



Page	Column	Line	For	Read	Page	Column	Line	For
6	1	14	down	down	136	1	30	romise
9	2	32	-entertained	entertained	137	"	38	Heavenwor
11	1	note 4	improvisatore	improvisatore	140	2	4	blec
14	1	23	neat,	neat,	143	"	30	following
16	"	26	Taanmitter	Transmitter	159	"	28	faill
22	"	26	obedient	obedient to	182	"	41	for
24	"	39	though	through	186	1	12	he
29	"	36	words	worlds	209	2	note 24	willoughbn
31	"	12	from	form	230	1	43	found and
32	2	27	died	did	233	"	36	our
34	1	note 1	Vibhāṇḍak	1 Vibhāṇḍak	241	2	23	is a
37	1	33	amrit <sup>8</sup>	amrit <sup>8</sup>	242	1	note 10	Magnifera
"	1	note 1	1 This saint	This saint	"	"	20	1 Vidyā-
"	"	6	2 The son	1 The son	"	"		dharis
"	"	7	3 At the	2 At the	252	2	17	crowned,
"	"	9	4 The Indian	3 The Indian	254	1	26	crowd,
38	1	After 3	add—A holy	rite employs	256	2	11	go
			me now.		267	1	9	high-soules
38	2	31	sense	senses	"	"	27	followers
39	"	7	height	hight	280	2	42	bast
51	"	32	Sona's	Sona's <sup>1</sup>	290	1	18	In
55	"	38	speed.	speed,	"	2	12	sings
60	1	note 1	Garud	1 Garud	298	1	29	sky.
66	"	14	'And	3 'And	303	"	35	pressed.
80	1	after 6	read—No other hope or		304	2	23	sped
			way I see :		305	1	4	to hand
82	1	note 9	Indra	India	309	2	8	fight.
88	1	31	drawn	dawn	310	1	14	fled
20	"	before 1	add —		311	2	1	care
			To Rāma's palace flew,		317	1	11	streams
			And all who lived the royal road,		321	"	4	lanka's
			Or thronged the prince's rich abode,		323	2	1	XXIV
			Rejoiced as near he drew.		325	1	34	Bālakhilya
			And with delight his bosom swelled		329	2	48	thee
			As onward still his course he held		331	1	43	all
			Through many a sumptuous court		349	2	10	te
			Like Indras palace nobly made,		350	1	37	eye.
			Where peacocks revelled in the shade,		351	"	30	could
			And beasts of silvan sort.		359	"	34	sleep
			Through many a hall and chamber wide,		361	2	7	from
			That with Kailāsa's splendour vied,		"	"	8	come
			Or mansions of the Blest,		366	"	17	faithfull
			While Rāma's friends, beloved and tried,		"	"	33	fiends
			Before his coming stepped aside,		367	1	1	My
			Sull on Sumantra pressed.		369	"	32	Whit
			He reached the chamber door, where stood		370	2	8	revised
			Around his followers young and good,		372	1	12	sky

For	Read	Page	Column	Line	For	Read
th	the	450	1	25	towerings	towering
slate	stay	"	2	18	spleandours	splendours
Lurd-voiced	Loud-voiced	"	2note	9	Válakhlyas	Válakhlyas
haxe	have	"	"	10	chumb	thumb
Matang's	Matanga's	452	1	25	profuse.	profuse
father	farther	"	2	41	crime	crime
Cassias <sup>1</sup>	Cassias <sup>2</sup>	453	2note	11	the the	the
gloom	gloom,	"	"	21	Vishnu,	Vishnu
galles	gales	454	1	13	high sould-	high-souled
or peafow	of peafowl				lord	lord
Ráma	Ráma	455	1note	2	soa	son
Hanúmán, <sup>1</sup>	Hanúmán, <sup>3</sup>	"	2note	14	als	also
Book III.	Book IV.	460	2	34	groun	ground
deem.	deem,	465	2note	8	made	made
gold.	gold	467	2	27	yore	of yore
true.	true,	468	1	9	sage.	sage
Rishymúka's	Rishyamúka's	"	2	1	qlent	blent
add—In the same spirit		470	"	39	Uishnu	Vishnu
eternal rov	ἐ'αρ' ὑποδρα	473	1	41	we.	we,
παραι-βομενος προσεφη, &c		"	2note	8	agan	again
Rishymúka's	Rishyamúka's	474	Headline		Book IV.	Book V.
Vanar	Vánar	475	"		Canto LIX.	Canto I.
rever	revere	"	2note	1	She	1 She
fiends	friends	476	Headline		Book IV.	Book V.
Laksman	Lakshman	"	2note	1	if	is
tiation,"	tradition."	477	2	20	Een	E'en
GORESIO, GORRESIO.		482	Headline		Book IV.	Book V.
oft	of	"	2	7	sandal's	sandal's
enmy	enmity	483	1	2	BENQUET	BANQUET
blots	bolts	483	2	29	trees tread	tread
viewed.	viewed	486	1	15	woded	wooded
course	curse	487	2	21	het	her
n	in	489	1	20	housband's	husband's
seems to	seems to point	490	2	21	ulastyá	Pulastyá
	to				Psprang	sprang
idifferent	different	491	1	27	inhis	in his
Manu	Manú	"	2	44	kness	knees
fatherg ave	father gave	493	1	4	ot	of
councillor	councillor	494	"	22	take	talk
demon's	demon's	496	"	9	steadifast	steadfast
Ashádha	Ashádha	"	2	35	sing	sign
Praustha-	Praushtha-	499	"	7	Phen	When
pada	pada	506	1	1	hare	here
Asháda	Ashádha	508	"	31	Asroars	As roars
south	south,	515	"	32	Omit Line 32	And clomb
bloomin g	blooming				.....might,	
thewalls	the walls	526	"	5	Tha	The
reachd	reached	531	2	37	an	as
brast	breast	536	1	40	to lord	to her lord
aman	a man	"	2	41	wodrious	wondrous
Lot	Let	537	1	14	Capda	Chanda
impiou's	impious	541	"	38	Hishband	His hand
the	thee	543	"	39	hear	here
fo	of	551	2note	1	omited	omitted

Page	Column	Line	For	Read	Page	Column	Line	For	Read
551	"	2note 3	vicory	victory	589	"	34	thunderer	Thunderer
555	1	33	secrets	secret	592	2After	43	read—	
556	"	12	guardian	guardian		2		Yea, or the throne of Paradise,	
559	2	10	foeman	foeman	"	"	44	Yea	But
562	"	34	force	force	593	2note	3	description	Description
"	"note	3	possessed	possessed	600	1	16	wild	her wild
563	1	37	Thus	Thus	"	"	36	slain, <sup>1</sup>	slain, <sup>3</sup>
564	1	22	Laká's	Lanká's	602	1	27	patures	pastures
"	2note	4	Rávan	Rávan-	"	2	16	fanting	fainting
566	1	37	batte	battle	606	"	45	hand	land
"	2	35	wost	wast	9	Appendix	18	seen	seen by
569	2	28	sacred	seared	12	"	13	invariably	inevitably
570	1	44	gain in	gain	13	"	20	intertain	entertain
572	"	4	haugty	haughty	19	Additional			
577	"	15	wit	with		notes	45	raises	which raises
578	"	32	hand	hand,	26	"	7	Parsians	Persians
580	2	19	host.	host	32	"	25	battle	battle.
582	"	8	my	of my	33	"	18	dangers'	dangers.'
583	"	18	eyes.	eyes <sup>1</sup>	"	"	22	commentator	commentator
585	"	37	sovereing	sovereign	37	"	49 col.		
587	1note14		father	father,			2nd	nt oloois	not coils
"	2	20	glourious	glorious	50	"	2note1	deen	been
"	2note13		censidered	considered	57	"	36	a	at
588	1	24	a blaze	ablaze					



# CONTENTS.

## BOOK I.

CANTOS.	Page.	CANTOS.	Page.
Invocation ...	1	XL.—The Cleaving of the Earth ...	57
I.—Nárad ...	1	XLI.—Kapil ...	58
II.—Brahmá's Visit ...	7	XLII.—Sagar's Sacrifice ...	59
III.—The Argument ...	9	XLIII.—Bhagírátha ...	60
IV.—The Rhapsodists ...	10	XLIV.—The Descent of Gangá ...	62
V.—Ayodhyá ...	12	XLV.—The Quest of the Amrit ...	64
VI.—The King ...	13	XLVI.—Diti's Hope ...	66
VII.—The Ministers ...	15	XLVII.—Sumati ...	67
VIII.—Sumantra's Speech ...	16	XLVIII.—Indra and Ahalyá ...	68
IX.—Rishyaśringa ...	17	XLIX.—Ahalyá Freed ...	69
X.—Do. Invited ...	20	L.—Janak ...	70
XI.—The Sacrifice Decreed ...	22	LI.—Vishvámitra ...	71
XII.—The Sacrifice Begun ...	23	LII.—Vashistha's Feast ...	72
XIII.—The Sacrifice Finished ...	24	LIII.—Vishvámitra's Request ...	73
XIV.—Rávan Doomed ...	27	LIV.—The battle ...	74
XV.—The Nectar ...	29	LV.—The Hermitage Burnt ...	75
XVI.—The Vánars ...	30	LVI.—Vishvámitra's Vow ...	76
XVII.—Rishyaśring's Return ...	32	LVII.—Trishanku ...	78
XVIII.—Do. Departure ...	34	LVIII.—Trishanku Cursed ...	78
XIX.—The Birth of the Princes ...	35	LIX.—The Sons of Vashishtha ...	80
XX.—Viśvámitra's Visit ...	36	LX.—Trishanku's Ascension ...	81
XXI.—Do. Speech ...	37	LXI.—Shunahshepha ...	82
XXII.—Daśaratha's Speech ...	38	LXII.—Ambarisha's Sacrifice ...	83
XXIII.—Vaśishtha's Speech ...	39	LXIII.—Menaká ...	84
XXIV.—The Spells ...	40	LXIV.—Rambhá ...	86
XXV.—The Hermitage of Love ...	41	LXV.—Vishvámitra's Triumph ...	86
XXVI.—The Forest of Táḍaká ...	42	LXVI.—Janak's Speech ...	88
XXVII.—The Birth of do. ...	44	LXVII.—The Breaking of the Bow ...	89
XXVIII.—The Death of do. ...	45	LXVIII.—The Envoy's Speech ...	90
XXIX.—The Celestial Arms ...	46	LXIX.—Dasharatha's Visit ...	91
XXX.—The Mysterious Powers ...	48	LXX.—The Maidens Sought ...	92
XXXI.—The Perfect Hermitage ...	48	LXXI.—Janak's Pedigree ...	94
XXXII.—Vishvámitra's Sacrifice ...	50	LXXII.—The Gift of King ...	95
XXXIII.—The Sone ...	51	LXXIII.—The Nuptials ...	95
XXXIV.—Brahmadatta ...	52	LXXIV.—Ráma with the Axe ...	97
XXXV.—Vishvámitra's Lineage ...	54	LXXV.—The Parle ...	98
XXXVI.—The Birth of Gangá ...	55	LXXVI.—Debarred from Heaven ...	99
XXXIX.—The Sons of Sagar ...	56	LXXVII.—Bharat's Departure ...	100